If you buy ladies' flesh at a million a dram, you cannot preserve it from tainting: But» I see, you have some religion in you, that you fear.

POST. This is but a custom in your tongue ; you bear a graver purpose, I hope.

IACH. I am the master of my speeches[4]; and would undergo what's spoken, I swear.

POST. Will you ?—I shall but lend my diamond till your return :—Let there be covenants drawn between us: My mistress exceeds in goodness the hugeness of your unworthy thinking: I dare you to this match: here's my ring.

PHI. I will have it no lay.

I^CH. By the gods it is one :—If I bring you no sufficient testimony that I have enjoyed the dearest bodily part of your mistress, my ten thousand ducats are yours; so is your diamond too. If I come off, and leave her in such honour as you have trust in, she your jewel, this your jewel, and my gold are yours:—provided, I have your commendation, for my more free entertainment.

POST. I embrace these conditions [5]; let us have

See p. 30, and 31, n. 6. Though the reply of lachimo may not have been warranted by the preceding words of Posthumus, it was certainly meant by the speaker as a provoking circumstance, a circumstance of incitation to the wager. STEEVENS.

Does it not mean—You shew yourself *a friend to your ring* which you have described as being so dear to you, by not risking it on such a wager, and your prudence is evinced by your caution?

BOSWELL.

* I am the master of my speeches ;] i. e. I know what I have said ; I said no more than I meant. STEEVENS.

5 *lack*. ----If I bring you NO sufficient testimony that I have
enjoyed the dearest bodily part of your mistress, my ten thousand ducats are YOURS ; so is your diamond too. If I come off, and leave her in such honour as you have trust in, she your jewel, this your jewel, and my gold are YOURS, &c.

* *Post.* I embrace these conditions ; &c.] This was a wager between the two speakers. lachimo declares the conditions of it; and Posthumus embraces them, as well he might; for lachimo